Remarks

The amendments to the claims find support throughout the specification, including in the paragraph spanning pages 9 and 10. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is moot in view of the claim amendments.

As shown in Fig. 1 (reproduced below), and as described in paragraph [0026], Kikkawa describes a multiplex communication system for communication among ECUs in a vehicle.

FIG. 1
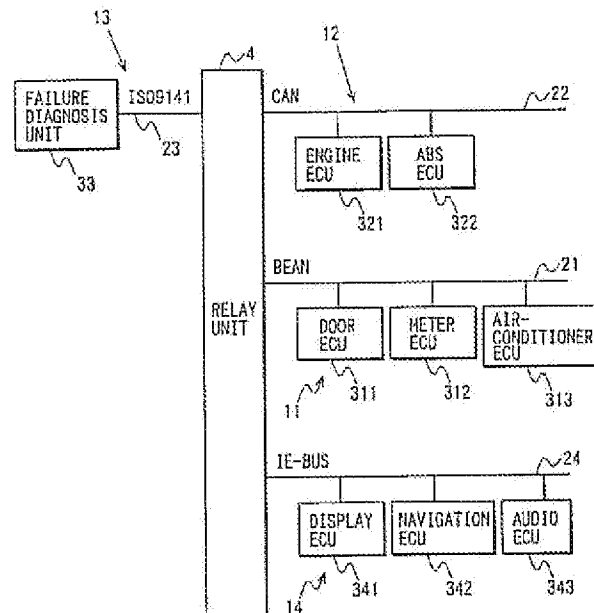
In the first network 11, communication between the nodes is performed according to communciation protocol BEAN (See Paragraph [0026]). The header for of each data frame according to BEAN protocol includes a 'Message ID' field, which represents a data ID, i.e., the data type of data included in the data body (See Paragraph [0029]).

In the second network 12, communication between the nodes is performed according to communication protocol CAN (See Paragraph [0026]). The header of each data frame according to CAN protocol includes an 'ID' field, which includes a data ID, i.e., the data type of data in the data body (See Paragraph [0030]).

In the third network 13, communication is performed according to communication protocol ISO 9141 (See Paragraph [0026]). The header of each data frame according to ISO9141 includes a 'Target Address' field and a 'PID" field, which cooperatively

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represent a data ID, i.e., the data type of data included in the data body (See Paragraph [0031]).

In the fourth network 14, communication is performed according to communication protocol IE-BUS (See Paragraph [0026]). The header of each data frame according to IE-BUS protocol includes an 'Operation Code' field, which includes a data ID, i.e., the data type in the data body (See Paragraph [0032]).

Data rely unit 4 is provided to enable the relay of data between these networks (See Paragraph [0033]). To facilitate this relay of data from a sending network to a receiving network, the data ID of the data frame sent from the sending network is extracted (See Paragraph [0036]). A new header is created and added to the data body by looking up header information in a table based on the extracted data ID (See Paragraphs [0037] – [0040]). The new header adheres to the protocol of the receiving network.

In contrast to Kikkawa, independent claims 1, 11, and 32 of the present application involve a protocol which comprises an operation field identifying a task to be performed by means of the information relating to operation of the vehicle, a data field with a value for the information relating to operation of the vehicle, and an ID field comprising a first region designating a logic control device to which the information relating to operation of the motor vehicle is assigned, and a second region identifying the information relating to operation of the motor vehicle

Independent claims 31 and 39 of the present application involve a protocol which comprises an ID field identifying a function which is assigned to the information relating to operation of the vehicle, an operation field identifying a task to be performed by means of the information relating to operation of the vehicle, and a data field with a value for the information relating to operation of the vehicle.
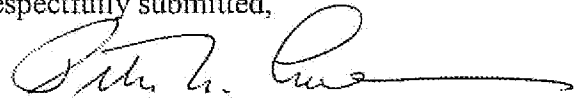
Independent claim 43 of the present application involves the protocol comprises identifying an operation field, the operation field corresponding to a task to be performed in response to the information, identifying a data field with a value corresponding to the operation field, and identifying an ID field comprising a first region designating a logic control device to which the information relating to operation of the motor vehicle is assigned, and a second region identifying the information relating to operation of the motor vehicle.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such account.

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